FANTASTIC FANZINE

#7
$1.00

DON SIMPSON INTERVIEW INSIDE

ALSO INSIDE:

LITTLE MICHAEL TAYLOR

AND

THE STAR CORPS

AND MORE

DONALD SIMPSON ©85

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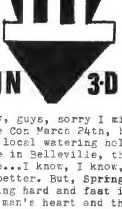
YE GOOD OL' EDITOR'S PAGE

PART



Hey, Guys, sorry I missed the Encore Con March 24th, but I was at my local watering hole, Legg's Lounge in Belleville, the night before...I know, I know, I oughtta know better. But, **Spring Fever** is striking hard and **fast** into this young man's heart and the knots of young ladies pushed comic books out of my mind for a short time. But, I think it's all under control now. I mean, when it comes right down to it, what do you think of more, comics...or lusty loose young ladies? That's what I tho't.

And now, without any further ado, and no more introduction than is actually needed to begin the next segment of this column, YE GOOD OL' EDITOR'S PAGE, we go directly and right away into the more serious type stuff and forget all about the opening paragraph, which is intentionally silly and doesn't neccesarily have anything to do with the rest of the column, nor does it neccesarily reflect the views and opinions of De Snoop.

Now for the bad news...As you must know by now, the cover price of FANTASTIC FANZINE has gone up to a dollar. We hope this will not be too much of a problem, but, we have been absorbing too much of the costs as it is and this is a neccesary increase in order to keep on publishing the mag. We are trying to increase the page count to 28 or, hopefully, 32 pages and this is a definite possibility. We will continue to bring you a quality product, however, and hope for your continued support.

TINKER TALON part two is still in the works and should appear again in issue #8, but in the meantime Wendy has given us another new episode in the life and times of LITTLE MICHEL TAYLOR.

Due to scheduling problems, we have moved back the third installment of JOHNNY GAMBIT to FF #6,

also. Don't worry, Alan Oldham fans we will be back.

Don't pass up the debut installment of STAR CORPS in this issue. I think this stuff is really hot! Guy Davis is the writer/pencillar, Tim Dzon the inker and Stuert Kerr (whot?) letterer. It's a really good story and the art is beautiful as you will see in issues to come.

Also, coming up in the future, the all-new (and we mean it!) CORC will appear in next month's ish. Boy, wait'll you see this, it's great. Wonder what ol' Jim (Al) Miller thinks about it?

Looking through the mag you will find no Top 36. We're switching it to a semi-annual format and will cover all the books in the preceeding six month period. All the details will be covered in an article in FF #6.

Special thanks to Sharon Nagy for helping out with the typing chores in this issue, especially for putting up with this archaic typewriter we've been using. We would never have gone to press on time without her.

Two projects that will begin during the next couple of issues will be a column called the 'Circuit', dealing with the local convention scene; and 'Small Press Report', about (what else?) small press publications.

If you have followed De Snoop and attend local cons regularly, you should know that there is some controversy about different aspects of conventions and there are those who don't like the idea of local cons at all. Are conventions a good or bad thing? Can we improve the con situation? Does it need improving? In The Circuit we will interview people involved in the local convention circuit, shop owners, writers and fans to get an overall view of conventions. Hopefully, by the time the series is over we will be able to make an analysis of the situation and make some recommendations about what to do about it. We haven't set an installment limit on it yet, because we don't know how long it will take

FANTASTIC FANZINE Vol.1, No.7 April, 1985 Issue. Published by FANTASY UNLIMITED, 317 W. Cross Ypsilanti, Mich., 48197. Published monthly. All characters contained herein © 1985 by FANTASY UNLIMITED unless otherwise indicated.

to cover everyone with a different view on the subject. See this issues Da Snoop for more on this.

Small Press Report will focus on mini's, fanzines, stripzines, and small press comics. There are a lot of people involved in what is known as the fandom network; there is even a newspaper that covers the small press. I feel that there isn't enough exposure for these publishers, artists, writers, etc. that take the initiative to take an active role in the comics scene. Sure, these guys aren't professionals (anybody seen FANTASTIC FANZINE #12?), but, there's a lot of talent out there and a lot of things that are drastically different from mainstream comics. This will be a regular column, so, if you follow it, you may find something you like.

We still want to know your feelings on splitting FF into two pubs, so remember to write in and let us know what's on your mind. Not only on that subject, but, on anything about FF or comics in general that you want to say. Write to:

FANTASTIC LETTERS or THE CIRCUIT
317 W. Cross
Ypsilanti, MI
48194

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b) The issue number you wish your ad to appear.
c) The address and phone at which you can be reached.

OTHER NOTES::
a) Use black ink on white paper.
b) You must assume all responsibility for the contents of your ad.
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AN OPEN LETTER TO R. A. JONES

by; RALPH GRIFFITH

R. A. Jones is the reviewer for Amazing Heroes, but what I want to know is, just what is this guy's problem? It seems that any book published that is not up to his standards should not be bought by anyone. Hey R. A., give me a break. Your review of SAVAGE NINJA #1 in AMAZING HEROES #67 made the book sound like it was the worst piece of crap in history and to avoid it like the plague.

All I can say is, boy, I'm I glad you didn't get to review FANTASTIC FANZINE #1, because, as all our long time readers know, our first issue of FANTASTIC FANZINE wasn't one of our more attractive copies. But, as our zine continued to roll of the press our package were getting better and better, until we arrived at nice little zine that you have in your hands now.

Granted SAVAGE NINJA isn't the most state of the art comic book ever to hit the stands but I know it's one local dealer who sold over one hundred copies. Who knows, maybe Edward Mandell (writer) and Michael Carr (artist) will improve the package as time goes on. Hey, we did! At least I'd like to think so.

Anyway, unless we fans support independent publishers we will just have to settle for whatever Marvel and DC puts out on the stands. You have to give the new publishers some time to work all the bugs out. You have to admit at least they had the guts and initiative to get their product in print and distributed.

I know that I try to buy most of the independents which come out. Of course, not everyone can do so. However, instead of just pointing out all the minuses you should try to stress the plusses. Let each individual reader discover what he or she dislikes about the book. You might just find out that what you find as unattractive someone else might realiy enjoy.

Now, I know your job is to review books and give your opinion about them in your column, but, you have to remember that these guys are first timmers. It's not like we're talking about Marvel or DC. These guys just got started. At least give them a couple of issues.

All I know is reading that review was like reading the TCJ (THE COMICS JOURNAL) and that, my friend, is depressing. Better luck next time Mr. Jones

-END-

p.s. Lighten up...comics are fun, man.

FANTASTIC FANZINE

INTERVIEWS

DON SIMPSON

At a recent convention, I caught up with Donald Simpson, creator of the smash, MEGATON MAN, published by Kitchen Sink. MEGATON MAN #1 sold out in the Detroit area within the first two weeks. Already a fan favorite, Don, a newcomer to the field, has achieved popularity with both critics and fans.

FF: Who were your influences when you began drawing comic art?

DS: At first they were John Romita, Gil Kane -the entire Marvel look- Jack Kirby, Joe Sinnott and (Jim) Steranko. I was reading comics from the early '70s, so I could still trade and get a lot of the older stuff, like Steranko's CAPTAIN AMERICA, the NULF cover he did...

FF: Which were your favorite books?

DS: SPIDERMAN was my ultimate favorite at the time when Romita was doing it. I've since found that some of the Ditko's were interesting. I followed MASTER OF KUNG FU for quite a long time back when Gulacy was on it. In fact, from the beginning of MOKF, I was following that one.

FF: Are you going to be doing any strctly serious stories in MEGATON MAN?

DS: MEGATON MAN is going to have a much more dramatic capacity, but, I really don't want to give you anything you should expect, because there are going to be some very serious elements to it, but, it's still changing quite rapidly, uncontrollably. Looking through the third issue, this third issue is a major turning point.

FF: It didn't seem the same as the first two. In fact, the first and second issues were at a different pace when reading them.

DS: Well, that's because they're my first comics, my earliest work, so, I'm still learning. Not to apologize or anything, I have no problem with the stuff. It's sort of in the past and I'm going to be doing new stuff. Newer, better, greater stuff.

FF: Do you have any new characters you're working on?

DS: Not in that sense. There are different new characterizations that I want to use. I don't think in terms of a superpower and a costume design being a character. In fact, I think it's a misleading way to go about having a character. Usually, when you have a book you have a title character, and, therefore, this character is never going to die or anything, nothing is ever going to happen to this character. This character will just be a steady, constant factor, just like the panel borders are always going to be there and the word balloons are a always going to be there. Things like JOURNEY have that flexibility because there is a cast of characters and, like a real world, people are going to die and change. LOVE AND ROCKETS is the same. In other words, in JOURNEY and LOVE AND ROCKETS, the cartoonist is the important thing. So, it's actually B'll Loebs doing his thing, whatever he feels like for 24 pages a month. So, it's entirely unexpected and different. Same with LOVE AND ROCKETS. Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez, those two have a very open-ended structure. It's called LOVE AND ROCKETS, but, there's no rockets.

Mike Kazelah: Like AMERICAN FLAGG.

DS: How do you mean? I don't read AMERICAN FLAGG. I've read some of Chaykin's older stuff.

MK: Well, they have that real sense of 'world', there are a lot of characters.

DS: That's to Chaykin's credit, but, what I was talking about was the name of the book tends to be like SPIDERMAN, you always have to have that character in it. In MEGATON MAN, what I'm aspiring to is not to have MM in every panel, so that the other characters...well, like Yarn Man seems to be popular, so I did a thing with him in the third issue. He's off in his own little world and there's no Megaton Man to be seen for pages at a time. In the fourth issue, it will feature the See-Thru Girl at college and stuff like that. I'm hoping that people will accept the fact that the book is called MEGATON MAN, but, he won't be in every single panel. In fact, he's going to be a sort of background character. If you look at some of the SPIRIT's, the Spirit was actually just in the background. So, there's a lot of flexibility. I don't want to burn MM out, so I force myself to bring other characters into it, simply because I don't want him to become so overused and ordinary.

FF: Will the Megatropolis Quartet be a continuing factor in the book?

DS: As of the second issue they are definitely gone. Rex Rigid, after this point, vanishes.

FF: No dramatic reunion?

DS: No, the world is going to become a little more realistic, and a little more cold in a way. The mythology's going to fall apart. See-Thru Girl will become a human being, stuff like that. There will still be flashbacks, because I associate the FF with the '60s or in the past somewhere. In a sense I'm appropriating that idea for MM. Those Silver Age heroes, those golden days of yesteryear are just sort of memories. So, that's what's going to happen there.

FF: MEGATON MAN is actually in the present?

DS: Yes, well, no.

FF: He doesn't have to be.

DS: That's not neccesarily important, because it's all make believe. But, yes, he's supposedly living in the 80s. Not because he has to be, but, because I'm creating him in the 80s and I'm using the attitudes I have at present. There are things I see in the world and I kick them around with various characters. I don't know if you've detected any Cold War elements in the book. All this nuclear stuff, the fact that MM is nuclear powered. I haven't actually stated it, but, he's always associated with mushroom clouds. That's definitely 1980s, although you'd find that even in the 50s, I suppose.

FF: Will you be using any real life characters in MEGATON MAN?

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SPECIAL
An East Coast Comics Report
Mike Kitchen

Then the comic book collector puts the words "Comics" and "East Coast" in his mind, New York City, the mecca of the comics industry, enters his brain. However, this report has nothing to do with the Big Apple.

Recently, I traveled to Massachusetts, and, though it was not part of the itinerary, I visited two comic book shops in the New England area. The reason for this was twofold: 1) I wanted to see a more realistic sales price on the so-called "Hot Books" of this area, and 2) to find myself a copy of Black & White Nexus #1 (which I did at the second shop mentioned in this report).

The first shop I stopped at was in the tiny state of Rhode Island. Now you may ask, "Why look at the prices of comics in a state that, according to the 1980 census, has 947,154 people less than the city of Detroit?" This is because I wanted a more realistic look at the demand of various comic titles.

The shop called Starship Excalibur is located on Washington street in Providence, Rhode Island. Before I go on, I'd like to note to all comic shop owners reading this, that my reference on this trip was the Overstreet Price Guide. This may cause you to think twice about advertising in the Guide, knowing that it can, and probably is, used as the "Yellow Pages" of comic shops.

Though the building was very small, the layout of the Starship Excalibur shop was such that I didn't feel at all crowded in the store. A showcase displayed caps and Marvel Superheroe games and accessories. Back issues, rather than being stored in the traditional cardboard comic boxes, were lined in a long, wooden display with a sheet of glass stretched across the front to show off the first comic in the row.

The new issues were lined along two wooden racks; the first for the newest week's releases, the other holding the newest issues of the regular titles. Behind the counter stood a chalkboard that informed the customers of the newest titles and what and when the next scheduled shipment was. Also, a long cardboard set of drawers stood to hold the regular patron's comics. The walls were decorated by older, more expensive comics, posters, and framed works of original art sketches by such talents as Dave Sim, John Byrne, Mike Zeck, and Bill Sienkiewicz. The shop gave a very clean, uncluttered, business-like atmosphere. My wife even noted that "this place isn't a pit!"

After exploring the back issue and making my purchase (the new issues of Nexus and Badger, and the 1st issue of Northguard, a comic that, as of this writing, has not made it's appearance in Michigan), I asked the employee what the hot titles of this area were.

The old leaders, the X-Men and New Teen Titans, were his top sellers. However, there was an interesting note. He had trouble keeping the Elementals in stock. The shop had reordered two and three times with each issue, and it still kept selling out. The employee felt that Bill Willingham could very well be the next fan favorite artist. I agreed with him, and on that note, and with the nudging of my wife and kid, I left.

I did take note of some of the main title's prices that they were selling at in this Providence shop.

New Mutants #1	$2.00
Secret Wars #1	$2.00
G.I. Joe #1	$4.00
Marvel Fanfare #1	$8.00
X-Men #94 (VF)	$50.00
Thor #337	$3.00
Wolverine #1	$2.50
Camelot #1	$4.00
Infinity Inc. #1	$2.00
American Flag #1	$2.50
Jon Sable #1	$2.50

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LITTLE MICHAEL TAYLOR

"MR. HOYTEY TOYTEY"

STORY AND ART © RANDY ZIMMERMAN.

IT'S ACE!! NOW ARE YA' GONNA TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE GOING, OR AM I GONNA HAVE TO TRASH YA'?
LET GO SPUNKY, OR YOUR NICKNAME IS GOING TO BE WORMHOLE!!

HE'S A FRIEND OF OURS. SO WHAT?! WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?
MICHAEL!! CALM DOWN!
SO WHAT'S THIS JEREMY KID'S LAST NAME?
COPEMAN, JEREMY COPEMAN.
SO WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD OF HIM? HE DOESN'T GO TO OUR SCHOOL DOES HE? "HUH?!"
NO. HE
SO WHAT MAKES THIS JEREMY KID SO SPECIAL?! WHY DOES HE GO TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL?
WELL. HE...
I BETCHA HE'S RICH! TOO RITZY TO GO TO REGULAR KIDS' SCHOOL, HUH?!
OH LOOK! I'M JEREMY! I'M TOO RITZY..TOO HIGH CLASS TO GO TO YOUR SCHOOL.. I'M TOO.. WAIT-A-SEC!
I REMEMBER WHAT THAT ENGLISH DUDE SAID ON TV..
"HOYTEY TOYTEY!"
OH, LOOK AT ME I'M JEREMY! I'M "HOYTEY TOYTEY" GO TO YOUR SCHOOL!

OOOH! JUST CALL ME "MR. HOYTEY TOYTEY!!"
HEY MR HOYTEY TOYTEY"! WHY DON'T YA' COME ALONG WITH US TO VISIT JEREMY, HE MIGHT NOT BE AS STUCK UP AS YOU THINK!!
SO, THIS JEREMY PLAYS BASKETBALL EH?
WELL, HE DOES, BUT HE'S NOT VERY GOOD.
THAT'S BECAUSE US "HOYTEY TOYTEY" TYPES DON'T GO FOR SPORTS!
YOU KNOW MIKEY BOY, I THINK I WILL!
HIS HOUSE DON'T LOOK AS "HOYTEY TOYTEY" AS I'D IMAGINED!
WE'RE HERE!

"DING! DONG!"
COME ON IN FELLAS THE DOOR'S OPEN!
OOO! TOO "HOYTEY TOYTEY" TO COME TO THE DOOR!
HIYA' JEREMY!
HELLO JEREMY! WE'D LIKE YOU TO MEET A FRI OF OURS THIS IS SPU
OOO! HELLOOO!
HUH?!?
OH!
UHHH..
SEE YA' LATER FELLAS! I JUST REMEMBERED SOME- THING I GOTTA DO!
HEY!
GEE WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?
I DON'T KNOW.
AW DON'T MIND SPUNKY. HE'S JU BEING STUCK UI YOU KNOW, "MR HOYTEY TOYTE
"HOYTEY TOYTEY"? THAT'S FUNNY! HAHAHAHA! SAY GUYS HOW ABOUT SOME BASKETBALL?
THE END.

The High Road To Mansfield, Ohio

(or, How I Spent November 18th, 1984)

Oh my god, I must be out of my head. It's 4:30 in the morning. Why'd I ever set my alarm this early? I must have been nuts to have told those guys that I'd go with them to the 1984 "Mid-Chio-Con"!

I swang my feet out of bed and proceeded to get ready. An hour later I stood, bleary-eyed, outside my friend's door and rang his ouzzer. Suddenly, I moped he wasn't serious about starting out this early. Yep, there he was with Larry... another victim that had been conned into going along: Larry was the driver of this van.

During the next hour, we drove about the west side of town and picked up two more comic addicts. By the time we pulled out onto the highway, it was 7 o'clock and we had five guys loaded into the van, a car with some sort of comic box. My box was filled to the brim with Silver Suds.

Now, the Mid-Ohio-Con was a regional con that was taking **place** in Mansfield, Ohio... over two and a half hours away. I had planned on catching 40 winks in the back of the van, but no, Alan had already sacked out on the last seat. That's what I get for being slow.

The event was partially a fund-raiser for the March of Dimes and a regional con at the same time. Spidy-Man and Ziggy were supposed to be making appearances all day. But that's not why I had come. I was looking forward to meeting two Great luminaries of Marvel Comics: John Byrne and Frank Miller. What an opportunity! For only $3.00 admission (and only $8.00 in transportation costs) I was going to see and hear my gurus speak!

The more miles we put under our tires, the crazier the group became. Beyond arguing whether Golden Age were a better investment than Silver Age comics, we settled no real issues. It had also become apparent that everyone in the van was toting along several select Golden Age books to sell at the con... everyone except me, of course.

It was quarter after eight. We were stuck on Ohio Route 20, maybe 40 miles from the convention site. A small but critical river bridge had been closed down. You would think that five grown guys wouldn't have a problem trying to decide how to drive around the obstacle by another route, would you? Not these guys... As the only person who had been down this road before (almost a half a year earlier on family business) I took the wheel. Almost immediately the dissention began again.

"I gotta go to the can, man... Are you sure this is the right way... Hang it out the window, man... I think we should have gone right at the last corner... Listen, if you get us lost and we miss the show..."

Needless to say, my bird-like sense of direction brought us to the site on the show in just over a half hour. A large sign on the door proclaimed "Mid-Ohio-Con: Comics-Cards-SF-Collectibles". A smaller sign appologized, "Due to illness, Frank Miller will not be appearing Saturday nor Sunday!"

Immediately, charges of fraud sprang forth from our happy little group. It was ten o'clock. Some of our group tried to slip in early and size up the show. We were met by the MC/host of the con and were asked to come back later, after the dealers had finished set-up. We had just over an hour before the doors opened.

The group piled back into the van and we drove to the nearby "Bob Evans" restaurant. Can you imagine five tired, rowdy guys from Detroit loudly proclaiming just how good the Tigers are? We got great service from the waitress... they couldn't wait until we left... stupid Michiganders... (Some place during that meal, I got the reputation for being a womanizer... It's all a blur of innendoes and double meanings now...)

We returned just after eleven. There must have been over forty dealers with major booths in the hall. A large stage filled the far end. The golden tones of the DJ/host floated over the sound system as he welcomed us and told the gather crowd what would be happening during the day. The only problem was that his voice, so perfectly modulated, blended into the hubbub so that you couldn't make out anything beyond the pleasant, soothing tone.

At least they had some class... free copies of recent comics, posters, fanzines (this one!) and dozens of other items were handed out at the door. A snack bar hid in one corner. In the other, you could be photographed with either Spidy or Ziggy for a modest amount. What an offer! Just let me at Byrne with my camera...

CONTINUED ON PAGE... 22

On the way home, we stopped in Quincy, Massachusetts, which is a suburb of Boston, to visit the New England Collectibles shop. This store was very different than the little Rhody shop. It was smaller, and much more crowded in the sense that, even if you were the only customer, you'd feel crowded. However, they did manage to display their merchandise well. (A peg board placed along the long wall of the store, held comics in Mylar bags on pegs.) A wooden rack held all of the newest issues and a long wooden table held many, many boxes of back issues. They also put out their own newsletter. It's free to their customers, and is printed quarterly. It simply lets the New England customer know what is scheduled to come out each week, and previews some of the newest releases.

What's not in Quincy? Well, the Secret Wars series has it's own shelf, separate from the new issues and back issues. They also carry a lot of the English Imports" Dr. Who, Warrior, the new Captain Britain comics. Perhaps, New Englanders are dry on comics from Jolly Old England. But the best answer to the question of "What's not in Quincy?" is written on a sign in the store. It read:

PAYING FOR STAMP THING ISSUES
(must be near-mint)

#20	$4.00
#21-#24	$2.00
#25-#29	$1.00

These are the selling prices in New England for some of the so-called "Hot Books":

New Mutants #1	$2.00
New Teen Titans #1	$20.00
New Teen Titans #1 (Baxter)	$4.00
Secret Wars #1	$2.00
Thor #337	$6.00
Peter Parker #64	$10.00
(1st Clock and Dagger)	
Daredevil #168 (1st Elektra)	$10.00
Spiderman #252 (1st new costume)	$2.00
American Flagg! #1	$5.00
Iron Cable #1	$2.00
Swamp Thing #2	$3.00
All Star Squadron #1 (1st Infinity, Inc.)	$1.00

So, if you're planning a trip, or even moving to the Massachusetts-Rhode Island area, I might find some other stores and your comic browsing, or you can order out their other shops, located at the addresses below.

To the shops I visited, I wish you the best of luck in 1986 and beyond. I enjoyed my visits and your hospitality, and I hope to do business with you in the future.

Starship Excalibur

60 Washington St. Providence, RI. 401-273-8390	834 Hope St. Providence, RI 401-861-1177
373 Elm St. New Haven, CT. 203-777-8186	

New England Collectibles Inc.

134a Hancock St. Quincy, MA. 770-1848	139A Brighton A Allston, MA 783-1848
224 Main St. Brockton, MA 584-5404	

FANTASTIC FLASHES ------

***Eclipse Comics will be releasing DETECTIVES, INC., in two color, comic book sized issues, dubbing it a 'micro-series' DETECTIVES, INC. was a 1980 graphic album by Don McGregor and Marshall Rogers.

The series will deal with mature themes such as jealosy, divorce, gang violence, and abortion. Because of this, the cover will carry a 'FOR MATURE AUDIENCES' label on the cover.

***Eclipse will also replace the discontinued ALIEN WORLDS with the new title ALIEN ENCOUNTERS.

***John Byrne will be taking over THE INCREDIBLE HULK on issue #334. While Bill Mantlo and Mike Mignola tackle ALPHA FLIGHT starting with #29, Archie Goodwin and Paul Chadwick take over DAZZLER on #38.

***SECTAURS will be a new bi-monthly Marvel comic, based on Coleco's toy designs. The series will be written by Bill Mantlo and drawn by Mark Texiera and Joe Delbeato. We've seen advance copies and the artwork is very nice.

***Al Milgrom will be the penciller for the SECRET WARS II limited series instead of the previously announced Sal Buscema.

***A RAWHIDE KID limited series by Bill Mantlo, Herb Trimpe, and John Severin is to begin in April.

***Also in April, Marvel will release THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL. This will be reprinting classic Jim Starlin work involving the good Captain vs. Thanos, with some new bridging material.

***Watch this space next month for more FANTASTIC FLASHES!!

PROLOGUE
THE GREAT SPIRAL GALAXY IS IN A STATE OF EVER INCREASING CORRUPTION...
AS COUNTLESS WORLDS FALL INTO DEPRESSION, PLANETARY LAWS ARE FORGOTTEN...
AND THE OUTER RIM OF THE GALAXY FINDS ITSELF PLAGUED BY THE PIRATE'S CURSE.
A THIEVING GROUP OF MERCENARIES PILLAGING ANY WORLD THAT IT COMES ACROSS.
A RUTHLESS EMPIRE BANDED TOGETHER BY THE INFAMOUS PIRATE LEADER CAPTAIN ALBINO BLYDE!
BUT AMONGST THE CHAOS, ONE ORGANIZATION STANDS FIRM IN OPPOSITION.

5...4...3...2...1...
ENGAGE!!
USS PARADOX SECURED FROM PRE-WARP DRIVE, CAPTAIN QUANTO.
PARA
RIGHT, ERIKO... SCANNERS AHEAD. ASSUME NORMAL CRUISING SPEED
...AN OUTBRANCH OF THE CELESTIAL FEDERATION KNOWN AS...
THE STAR CORPS
TEXT/ART - INKS
GUY DAVIS - TIM DZOAI
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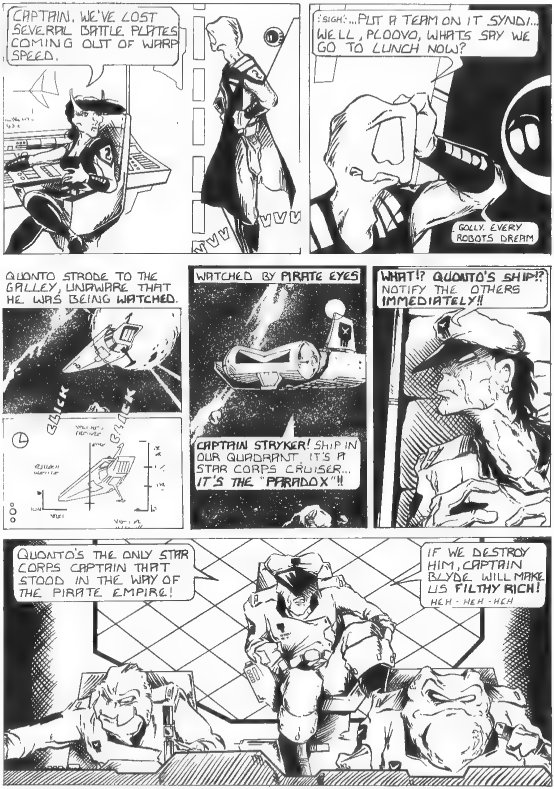
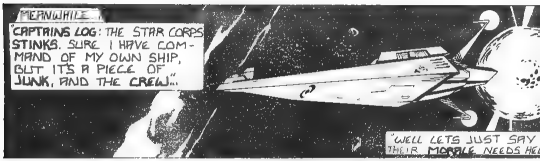
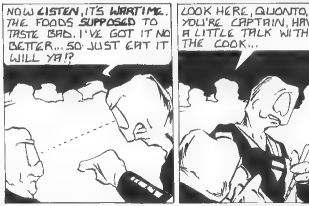

CAPTAIN. WE'VE LOST SEVERAL BATTLE PLATES COMING OUT OF WARP SPEED.
:SIGH:...PUT A TEAM ON IT SYNDI... WE'LL, PLOOVO, WHAT'S SAY WE GO TO LUNCH NOW?
GOLLY. EVERY ROBOTS DREAM
QUANTO STRODE TO THE GALLEY, UNAWARE THAT HE WAS BEING WATCHED.
CLICK
CLICK
WATCHED BY PIRATE EYES
CAPTAIN STRYKER! SHIP IN OUR QUADRANT. IT'S A STAR CORPS CRUISER... IT'S THE "PARADOX"!!
WHAT!? QUANTO'S SHIP!? NOTIFY THE OTHERS IMMEDIATELY!!
QUANTO'S THE ONLY STAR CORPS CAPTAIN THAT STOOD IN THE WAY OF THE PIRATE EMPIRE!
IF WE DESTROY HIM, CAPTAIN RYDE WILL MAKE US FILTHY RICH!
HEH-HEH-HEH


MEANWHILE...
CAPTAINS LOG: THE STAR CORPS STINKS. SURE, I HAVE COMMAND OF MY OWN SHIP, BUT IT'S A PIECE OF JUNK, AND THE CREW...
"WELL LETS JUST SAY THEIR MORALE NEEDS HE

}SNIFF...SNIFF{ WHAT THE ZARK'S THIS?

THIS, ERIKO, IS CALLED THE STAR CORPS IDEA OF FOOD, YOU CALL IT DINNER AND EAT
IT STINKS.
SO DOES THE CORP

I'M SICK OF ALWAYS EATING THIS SLOP. MY GOD, IT SMELLS LIKE ZARDY CRAP! HERE, SMELL....
HEY! CUT IT OUT!!


NOW LISTEN, IT'S WART'IME.. THE FOODS SUPPOSED TO TASTE BAD. I'VE GOT IT NO BETTER... SO JUST EAT IT WILL YA!?
LOOK HERE, QUONTO, YOU'RE CAPTAIN, HAV A LITTLE TALK WITH THE COOK...

YEAH! FOOD SUCKS, CHANGE IT!!!
VERY WELL PLUTT, GORT.

ALRIGHT YOU GUYS WIN, I'VE HAD IT. PLUTTE CAPTAIN, BRING ME THE CHEF!
BYE.

PROBABLY SOME IDIOT WHO CAN'T TELL A FRU FROM A COLA }SIGH{
QUIET!... HE COMING.

SOME TING WRONG WIT DA FOOD!?
NO.
NOPE.
WELL ... YES...
UH-UH, GREAT!
YUM!
GLUG!
MUNCH!
GOBBLE!
SLURP!
SLURP!
WOOF!
CONSUME!
UH... DID YOU MAKE THIS MEAL?
YUP... WIF MY OWN HANDS.
I SEE ... UH...
"UH... BY THE WAY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR HAND?"
OOOHH NUTTIN, JUST A BIT OF THE ROMARIAN PLAGUE.
PTOOO
GOD I HATE THIS JOB.
EEYUCKK

MAYBE WE'LL JUST HAVE A... UH GLASS OF WATER...
BOOP!
BOOP!
WHAT IS IT SYADI?
CAPTAIN! THREE PIRATE VESSELS APPROACHING FAST FROM THE REAR
GRIGKKK
WHAT!!
THIS IS STRYKER TO ALL CRAFT, SURROUND THE PARADOX. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE IT, JUST BLAST IT OUT OF SPACE.
HYE
BYE
BACK ON THE PARADOX' BRIDGE...
DAMN SLOW DOORS!
BATTLE-STATIONS, GUYS!!
SMACKK
OOFF!
ONE SIDE! ONE SIDE!
COMING THROU
CAPTAIN! WE'RE IN NO CONDITION TO FIGHT!!
WHA!?
THE REPAIR CREW DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO REPLACE THE DAMAGED BATTLE PLATES! IF WE'RE HIT THERE WE'LL BE DEFENSELESS!!
NEXT ISSUE:
TO THE VICTOR, LIFE

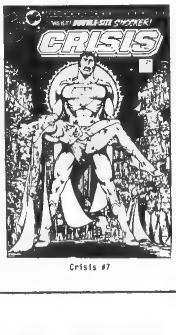
TALES OF SUSPENSE:
More Than Just The Book Where Iron Man Began.

Today there aren't many young collectors who know how important TALES OF SUSPENSE was, and is, to the Marvel Universe. It's not just the book where Iron Man began!

Many important heroes and villians have their origins in Tales Of Suspense. Heroes like Hawkeye, Sharon Carter (Agent 13 of SHIELD-Captain America's girl friend), and the Black Widow (Who actually began as an evil spy for the Russians), had their start here. As for villians, take your pick: the Blizzard (Who began as Jack Frost), the Crimson Dynamo, the Mysterious Melter, the Titanium Man, Ultimo, Modok (the "HEAD" of A.I.M.), Batroc the Leeper, the Super-Adaptoid, the Dream Maker (Who was actually Count Neferis), the Unicorn, Whitney Frost (Madame Masque-head of the Maggia), and the biggest of them all, the Mandarin. All of these characters have had a big impact in all of the major books of Marvel.

"Tales" has also had many good artists work in it. Jack Kirby, Don Heck, Wally Wood, Steve Ditko, and Johnny Craig just to name a few. Not to mention some of Stan Lee's best writing.

There's a lot of great reading and artwork in Tales Of Suspense that many of you younger readers should take a look at. Most of the title is inexpensive for the quality and well worth the money. So why don't you try it? I guarantee you won't regret it.



Crisis #7

DEATH TO ROY THOMAS!

What the heck's going on here?
By Christopher Howard

Now that I have your interest, I proudly consider myself a radical golden ager. I love the golden age of comics. As a result, I ran around buying the old comic books and the recent ones like: ALL STAR SQUADRON, FREEDOM FIGHTERS, INVADERS, and INFINITY INC., along with others.

What has that have to do with Roy Thomas? Come on! My blood boils when I read anything Thomas has written dealing with golden age period. Let's look at some ALL STAR SQUADRON. I hope there is an EARTH-B for golden age stories. It doesn't take an I.Q. of 70 to know that the Quality Group Heroes exsisted on EARTH-X but Mr. Thomas would have us all believe that they moved from EARTH-2 to EARTH-X unwillingly.

Gosh! Mr. Thomas! I didn't know Plastic Man was on EARTH-2 before he trekked on over to EARTH-X. Dollman, Ray, Phantom Lady also? But seriously, do you really expect me to believe that, Sandra Knight also known as Phantom Lady is a cousin of Ted (Starman) Knight? Much less that she started out in the DC universe?

Maybe you don't realize the confusion that maybe spreading through comicdom's 6-14 set. Most of those kids think X-MEN #94 was the first comic book ever published and you are not making things any better by plugging up so called "inconsistences" in golden age history.

A well known Marvel writer told me that "All this stuff isn't chiseled in stone." He's right of course. But do you have to chisel out a whole new stone? I don't think so. I have enough trouble fitting in the "quasi heroes" that have been created such as Daredevil (Firebrand) Reilly, Will (Amazing Man) Everett, and... Is it time to shut up yet?

I hope my meaning has gotten across and (editor permitting) in the next column, I'll get right to the point. By the way, have you heard the one about the Four Captain America's?

More later...

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT NECCESARILY THE OPINION OF THE PUBLISHERS OF FANTASTIC FANZINE OR THEIR SUBSCRIBERS.

Hey, sorry ta let ya down, but, 'member last month when I told ya da 'Con Wars' was over? Well, Stan, da Head Rat in da Network, seems ta be wrong. Yeah, Gary Sibley is out of da monthly con biz and concentratin' on his charity show, American Heroes. But, da operators of de Book Bin and B's Comic Stop have taken over da Vintage Con dates. Other parties are rumoured to be interested in sponsoring cons, also. Da Snoop is tempted ta call 'em flea markets 'stead of comic book conventions. Even da publishers of dis 'zine was blowin' things out in quarter boxes. Da Snoop wonders where it's gonna end?

True, da fans is gettin' some great deals on da new releases which is sometimes goin' for up to 40% offa da cover price, but, mosta da tables got da new stuff an' not a very good selection of back issues. Even when dere are good back issues ta be had, da collector is almost compelled ta spend his bucks on da newer issues ta keep his collection current at such a deal. As fer da dealers who is also shopowners, da cons is a good place, not only for advertizing, but, also, for getting rid of their dead-sellers and over-orders. Now, why there seems ta be so many over-orders is beyond da Snoop, 'cept maybe ta reach a certain amount of books fer a greater discount. If dis is so, then da shop-owner better look at what dis glut will do ta dere back issue sales both at da cons an' in da shops. Lately at da cons it's who discounts da new books da most kinda thing..

Seems da almighty buck is keeping da shopowners from gettin' tagether an' diccuss da problems with our hobby (or should I say their business?) an' try ta come up wit' an idea ta stabilize da market in dis area.

Ya can't blame da con organizers cuz as long as dealers an' fans continue ta show up at da cons he's gonna see those dollars continue ta roll in. He's providin' a place for fans ta gather an' makin' a few bucks at da same time, so why shou he feel he's doin' anything of dis service ta anyone?

Now, ya might not see anything wrong wit' da con situation. After all, you're gettin' a great deal o all dese new books, plus back issu prices almost everything but TI TITANS and X-MEN have gone down. But, take a minute ta consider dis if ya buys dese books fer next ta nuthin', how's they ever gonna be worth anything if ya ever sells '

So, who's ta blame? What's da answer? I don't know. Is there eve really a convention problem at all Da Snoop wants ta know what you think. Send dose missives ta:

THE CIRCUIT
c/o FANTASTIC FANZINE
317 W. Cross
Ypsilanti, MI.
48197

'Til next month...ciao fer now!
Da Snoop

Don Simpson Interview

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

DS: No, I had thought of that. Actual I don't like Reagan enough to eve make fun of him. So, my feeling was that I would create an image of my own that sort of represente a president and then I could make fun of them and not publicize Rea or not get thrown in jail or anything like that. So I sort of cre ted Orson Welles. No, I appropria Orson Welles' image that he had i 'Citizen Kane' and 'The Third Man A sort of mysterious, gothic figu this presence that Orson Welles i And I made him president. He's go ing to show up again one of these days.

FF: Would you consider MEGATON MAN yo soapbox?

DS: Yeah! (laughter) No, it is. I'm just shooting my mouth off at the world. It's my big choice. It's a real wonderful responsibility be ing a cartoonist. So, yeah, that' very accurate.

FANTASTIC LETTERS

Dear Stu,

First of all, many thanks for running my Marvel Universe article (wow! I've become a bona-fide mini-quasi-celebrity!). I'm looking over several subjects for a second offering.

Comments on FF#6: In my first letter to you I suggested you switch to an all articles format and now I read in your editorial page that you're currently considering just such move. However, that was before the arrival of Randy Zimmerman and the interesting, if imperfect, JOHNNY GAMBIT by Alan Oldham. The work of these two add a lot of life and energy to the magazine. I hope you'll be able to dicover more talents of this caliber. Of course I also enjoy very much the text features, interviews, Heroes Unknown, and even "DA SNOOP" now that he's reformed a bit. How about instead of pubishing two titles you increase the page count of FF to include both more articles as well as strips

Turning to the Unknown Swami, he may be able to see into the future but his jokes come from the past. The Pac-Man fad went the way of all things almost two years ago now. And tell the Swami to stop dating Zantanna.

John P. Parrish III
25428 Peter Kaltz St.
Warren, Mich. 48091

Mr. Parrish,

How delightful to hear from you once again. You have been a constant source of encouragement and constructive critisism, and, yes, we do consider your ideas. We're glad you like the all-new, improved Snoop. I've still got scars from last argument. One of these days, I'm sure, we will meet in person. In the mean time, keep those letters coming!

Dear Stua.,

Your zine is very nicely printed. You must have alot of comic shops in Michigan carrying it.

Even though the two strips were nicely drawn, I'd like to see FF as an all article/reveiw zine, as there are too few of them. You might want to move them into your new strip-zine. We finally got our strip-zine off the ground last month AMAZINE.

The reviews of CRISIS and MOON-SHADOW could have been condensed without losing much, but I agree with the opinions expressed.

Excellent Bill Loebs interview. He thinks more clearly and objectively than most creators, and certainly more so than most fans.

I always enjoy letters from fans, so that section was the highlight.

If you're going to concentrate solely on the current comic scene, I would like to see more articles with a little more depth discussing a particular aspect of todays comics.

Sincerely,
IT'S A FANZINE
Gene Kehoe- Editor
8708 Carole Circle #11
Urbandale, Iowa
50322

Gene,

Your reputation in the fandom circles is not unknown to us at FF. I was very impressed with your pub, IT'S A FANZINE. I can assure you that we are planning many new columns and feature articles in the next six months or so. In a mag of this size, that's about as far in advance as you can get. The decision to split the zine has not been made yet and will depend partly on the readers' response, so thanks for your vote.

Stuart,

FF is an excellent zine. I must give you and everyone involved credit, for it is the best zine I've seen in zenith. FF seems (so far, at least) to be a wonderful attempt at a review-art-story zine all wrapped up in one.

Allow me to comment on your idea of doing two books, one dedicated to art-story, the other to text (reviews, etc.). It's a bad move to make. FF is perfect as it is, with the right mixture of reviews, interviews, and articles. All that is what makes FF great. It's just right. Too much of anything is bad and if you go ahead with the title split, it's gonna be way too much! Of course, that's just one opinion. It's your book, do what you will. I have a feeling that any way you go with it, it's gonna work well. You'll still have our support.

#6 was my personal favorite. It was great. I really enjoyed your editorials. They are tinged with just the right amount of humor and 'serious' stuff. Your method of reviewing a Marvel/DC comic is great. Your columnists are great. Corona is good. Hot Box is, surprisingly, very good. Most fanzine's general review columns come off campy and just plain silly. The Unknown Swami is WONDERFUL! I love this guy! The interviews you run are good. Tinker Talon was different, to say the least. Mike Kitchen is a really good columnist. The Top 36 is done in a good way...really different though, why the top 36? Now, your only setback...da Snoop. Classical stupidity, if you ask me. Ah, the 'Real Comic Collectors' piece. True greatness! And they're all true! I can relate to all of them! That's another thing I really like about your zine. A lot of fandom people think that mainline Marvel/DC comics are off-limits, just because they're into fandom. That's bull. Your book puts mainline and fandom together, and it's a perfect harmony, don't you think?

Revolution Moon... It is great! I really enjoyed it.

I love it! I just can't say enough. Of all the books we have received lately, FF is by far the best!

William Bynum
Managing Editor
Frontier Comics

Bill,

Thanks for the vote of confidence. We try to be as interesting and informative, as well as entertaining, as we can be. There are a lot of people who deserve credit for getting FANTASTIC FANZINE where it is today, not the least of which are the readers who have written in their comments and suggestions.

One of our upcoming projects will be an in-depth look at the small press scene, which I know you will be interested in.

Frank Miller has signed a contract with DC Comics for a Batman graphic novel mini-series. Explains Frank Miller, "Though the details aren't firmed up yet, the format we're dicussing for the series makes the graphic novel idea affordable and expands what can be done with it."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE... 10

The rest of the morning is a blur of new faces, endless rows of books and tables, and eager dealers just waiting to take our money. I do remember almost each person from our van coming up to ask me two questions: 1] "Have you seen ? " (fill in the blank with a name from our group) or 2)"Would you take these 20 books up to _____ (fill in the name of a guest artist) and have him sign each one?" Of course I would... wouldn't you? Over two and a half hours from home? Who wouldn't?

After several of the guest artists and writers spoke, it was time for a panel question and answer session. It quickly became apparant that the kids in the audience couldn't come up with any more complex questions than "What does The Vision think of Wonder Man's new costume?" But several of us put forth our best intellectual faces: "What do you think the impact of comic art will have on the violent social front of our society?" Stupid Michiganders...

John Byrne finally took the stage and let us in on a few of the coming changes in his book. It was at this show that he announced his take-over of the Hulk in the near future. He also tipped us off that someone ("not the Indian and not the fag... yes, that's what I said") was going to die in Alpha Flight #24. Yes, as Byrne's parting shot, he would have Puck and Heather walk off into the sunset together.

John is a much larger man than I had expected. The slow-steady growth of his blonde butch haircut certainly gives him the appearance of having a large head. Though tactful, his comments confirmed a continual smoldering fight with rival Chris Clarmont. Byrne chortled that between he and Roger Stern they had control of the oldest teams in Marvel history. And on that axis, they could change the shape of most of the Marvel Comics... Kind of gives one the willies, doesn't it?

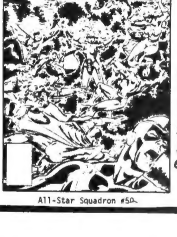
Also present at the con were Roger Stern, of Avengers fame, and Tony Isabella and Robert Ingersol from their columns in the Comic Buyer's Guide. Several other notables from cartoonist fame were also there.

A nice added touch were the promotional displays and VHS videotapes presentations that Marvel Comics had sent along. The twelve panel display clearly showed how a recent issue of the X-Men was assembled, from initial concept through to the final printing. The videotapes were professionally done, and are available to major distributors. Unfortunately, the information they contained was dated. Most of the issues had already appeared on the newstands a few weeks ago.

By the time we got out of there, we were all tired and hungry, so of course we descended on "Chicken Kitchen" nearby. The service was not as good partially because our abuse of Ohio courtesy was bordering on boyish behavior. Still, we were all in good humor and the evening crew there may never forget the guys from Detriot who found every reference to chicken parts 'thighs, legs, breasts) obscene. Stupid Michiganders...

We got on the road as darkness fell. Most of the ride back was a rehash of the arguments covered on the way down. After two and a half hours of driving, we were all exhausted. Nobody won. Most of us had made some great deals on their Golden Age issues (except me, of course). We all agreed that it had been a worthwhile trip, but that we didn't need to get up quite so early.

The last thing I remember from the trip was some ridiculous promise that I would get up at 3 a.m. to board a train with these crazies to go to the July 4th Chicago Comic Con. Naw... it must have been a bad dream!



All-Star Squadron #50.

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